

REMARKS

Thorough examination and careful review of the application by the Examiner is noted and appreciated.

The gracious allowance of claims 26-29 is further noted and appreciated.

The indication by the Examiner that claims 8-9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, is further noted and appreciated.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Givargizov et al '206.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to further recite the limitations contained in dependent claims 5-8. The newly amended independent claim 1 is therefore not anticipated by Givargizov et al. Claims 5-8 have been cancelled and withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner. A reconsideration for allowance of claims 1-4 and 10-12 is respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6-7 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Givargizov and further in view of Wolf publication.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to further recite the limitations contained in dependent claims 5-8. The newly amended claim 1 is therefore equivalent to dependent claim 8 being rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations of the intervening claims 5-7 and base claim 1. The Applicants

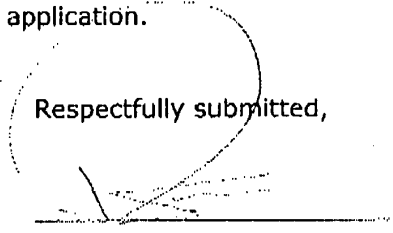
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therefore respectfully submit that the newly amended independent claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims, i.e. claims 1-4, 9-12 and 25 are now in condition for allowance. Such favorable action by the Examiner at an early date is respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned representative to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Respectfully submitted,


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